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NEWS RELEASE

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Court of Appeal to Hold Public Outreach Session in San Bernardino County

Riverside—The Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, will hold its third "Outreach Plus" court-community program on Thursday, January 18, at Colton High School, announced Presiding Justice Manuel A. Ramirez. The special session is open to the public.

The goal of the program is not only to educate high school students about the trial and appellate courts but to encourage them to stay in school and consider careers in the law.

The oral argument session will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Colton High School Auditorium, 777 W. Valley Boulevard, Colton. Oral argument will be heard in two criminal appeals, lasting about 40 minutes in each case. Afterward, a 30-minute question-and-answer session will be conducted by the justices for the audience of students, faculty, and local officials.

Cases to be Argued

The appeals to be argued follow:

People v. Willie R. is a case in which the juvenile court found the allegations of felony attempted grand theft true beyond a reasonable doubt. On appeal, minor contends that (1) the juvenile court's true finding is not supported by substantial evidence; and (2) the juvenile court erred in admitting testimony of the arresting officer.

People v. Randall Ray Stuart is a case in which the People appeal from a trial court order dismissing one of two prior strike convictions. The People contend that the trial court abused its discretion in dismissing the prior strike by relying on a factor extrinsic to the scheme of the "three strikes" law.

After oral argument and the question-and-answer session, the Court of Appeal justices and staff will team with San Bernardino County Bar Association lawyers who will speak to 9th to 12th grade students in their classrooms. The justices will use these sessions to inform students about the importance of graduating from high school, careers in the legal field, and the roles of trial and appellate courts.

The Court of Appeal and the San Bernardino Bar Association have adapted "Outreach Plus" to Colton High School with the assistance of Colton High School administrators John Steven Coke, Sr., Principal, and Assistant Principals Noah Kimbwala, Robert Verdi, Victor Schiro, and Melissa Kingston.

Division Two of the Fourth Appellate District hears appeals from the superior courts in Inyo, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties. The appeal court first started holding special sessions in high school auditoriums several years ago in eastern Riverside County. The court will bring the program to Riverside County for the first time in February 2007 at North High School.

For more information, call Henry Espinoza, Assistant Clerk/Administrator, at 951-248-0200.

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